

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for creating a decorative wood carving, comprising the steps of:
  - selecting a porous piece of wood;
  - sanding at least a first broad surface of the wood;
  - transferring a design onto the first surface of the wood;
  - trenching said first surface according to the transferred design;
  - re-sanding the first surface after trenching to remove any remnants of said design;
  - applying heat to the first surface after trenching to darken at least some sections of said trenched surface; and
  - applying a finish to said first surface after heating.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said piece of wood is selected from the group consisting of oak, pine, birch, and luana.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of sanding at least a first broad surface of the wood includes sanding two opposing broad ~~surface~~ surfaces of the wood.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transferring is accomplished by directly drawing the design on said first surface with a soft lead pencil.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transferring is accomplished using a stencil.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transferring is accomplished using a rub transfer.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said trenching is accomplished using a chisel.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said trenching is accomplished using a utility knife.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said trenching is accomplished using a routing tool.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said trenching is no deeper than about 2 centimeters in depth.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said finish is a stain.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said finish is a varnish.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
after said step of applying a finish, allowing the finish to dry for 2-3  
minutes;

removing excess finish with a cloth; and  
using sandpaper to smooth said first surface.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the steps  
of:

after said step of using sandpaper to smooth said first surface,  
applying a second finish to the first surface;

allowing the second finish to dry for 2-3 minutes;  
removing excess second finish with a cloth; and  
using additional sandpaper to smooth said first surface.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, further comprising the step of:  
applying a final polyurethane finish to said first surface.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
applying a final polyurethane finish to said first surface.

17. (Original) A method for creating a decorative wood carving,  
comprising the steps of:

selecting a porous piece of wood;  
sanding at least a first broad surface of the wood;  
using a soft pencil to draw a design onto the first surface of the wood;  
trenching said first surface by following the penciled design;  
re-sanding the first surface after trenching to remove any remnants of  
said design;

applying heat to the first surface after trenching to darken at least some sections of said trenched surface;

re-sanding said first surface after said step of applying heat;

applying a finish to said first surface after heating;

allowing the finish to dry for 2-3 minutes;

removing excess finish with a cloth; and

using sandpaper to smooth said first surface.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of:  
applying a final polyurethane finish to said first surface.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein said finish is a stain.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein said finish is a  
varnish.